

Michigan Women's Commission Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2019

Radisson Hotel

111 N. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

1:00pm

Attendance

Chair Chris Etienne, Vice Chair Kathleen Vogelsang, Commissioner Deidre Lambert-Bounds, Commissioner Krista Haroutunian, Commissioner Meg Wheeler Derrer, Commissioner Barbara Land, Commissioner Catherine Hendrian, Commissioner Nicole DeMarco, Commissioner Kelli Saunders, Commissioner Alisha Meneely, Commissioner Mary Templeton, Commissioner Joanne Dawley, Executive Director Mary Engelman and Department Specialist Jackie Debusschere were in attendance.

Commissioner Jan Peabody Doty, Commissioner Cathleen Knauf and Commissioner Renee Haley were excused.

Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm.
2. The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.
3. Chair Etienne welcomed everyone to the meeting, including our new commissioners. Chair Etienne also welcomed the new Millennial Advisory Committee and advised the commission that Commissioner Hendrian will be overseeing them.
4. Commissioner Hendrian introduced the new millennial advisory committee – Harley Paulsen, Brooke Noonan, Amber Hall, Di'Ane Townsel and Megan Blue. The committee members each took turns introducing themselves.
5. It was motioned to approve the agenda. It was unanimously passed.
6. Executive Director Report
 - a. Executive Director Engelman shared that the annual report is in everyone's folder for review. She asked everyone to review it and share any updates needed at this time.
 - i. Commissioner Templeton said we talk about the millennial advisory committee in the annual report, but it needs its own heading.
 - ii. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds said on the first page under women on boards we need to remove the Mackinac Policy Conference language since we can't accomplish that this year.
 - iii. Motion to approve the annual report with the edits – approved.
 - b. Executive Director Engelman advised that Civil Rights has been

working within the government in support of HB 5795, a bill that creates a higher education sexual assault ombudsman. She said it is part of our statute to enforce these laws. She said we are continuing to work with the legislature and civil rights to ensure that this position is housed in the civil rights department.

- c. Executive Director Engelman shared that we have started the FIRST Robotics meetings again in preparation for April.
 - d. Executive Director Engelman shared that we are looking forward to getting the millennial advisory committee up and running.
 - e. Executive Director Engelman said our legal counsel Ron Robinson received a promotion and asked him to elaborate. Robinson stated he has been appointed to Attorney General Nessel's executive staff.
 - f. Executive Director Engelman said that the governor has done a couple of executive directives, including a mandate that she expects state government to examine the wage gap.
 - g. Executive Director Engelman said we have had lots of media coverage in the form of interviews regarding the wage gap as well as the destruction of rape kits.
 - h. Executive Director Engelman asked the commission if we would want to work with the Attorney General's office to ensure that the destruction of rape kits doesn't happen again. The commissioners were all in agreement.
 - i. Vice Chair Vogelsang said Michigan Women Forward made a lot of progress towards getting the rape kits tested.
 - j. Executive Director Engelman said that with the new governor and her initiatives, she thinks the women's commission will have an exciting few years.
7. Report by the special committee regarding Women in Business (STEM, Resources, Boards, Leadership)
- a. Commissioner Templeton said that the women on boards subcommittee has decided to send letters to companies based in Michigan who have achieved at least 20% of women on corporate board positions. She said the letter will be sent out in the next couple of weeks acknowledging them for their efforts and encouraging them to do more. She said they have reached out to a couple of resources to get a list of women who are board ready to include in their letters.
 - b. Chair Etienne asked if she could send it out to the entire commission. Commissioner Templeton said she would forward the letter on to the commissioners.
 - c. Commissioner Templeton said they are also sending a letter to the other companies that haven't achieved at least 20% of women on their corporate board to encourage them to increase women on their boards. She said it will include resources which will hopefully inspire action. The letter will be signed by Mary Engelman, Chris Etienne, Deidre Lambert-Bounds and Mary Templeton as co-chairs.

- d. Commissioner Templeton shared that Commissioner Lambert-Bounds has been invited to participate in the Deloitte Board Readiness program.
 - e. Chair Etienne and other commissioners extended Commissioner Lambert-Bounds congratulations.
 - f. Commissioner Templeton said the committee would like to have a representative from the house lead an effort to make a resolution to encourage companies to get more women on their boards. She said we have lots of information that supports why diversity on boards makes a difference.
 - g. Commissioner Templeton said we should consider participating in the Mackinac Policy Conference in future years.
 - h. Commissioner Templeton said the STEM subcommittee has completed a survey to get a baseline of what organizations are doing for girls in STEM. She said they obtained some good information. She said the subcommittee's focus is to encourage birth to kindergarten-aged girls to learn about STEM. She said we have a draft of bookmarks that we can distribute to different state agencies, libraries, numerous resources that share why you should encourage girls to get into STEM, what is it, and example activities to build skills. Thank you to Commissioner Land for drafting it, Commissioner Lambert-Bounds will be adding graphics to it and we will be printing them if there is budget for it.
 - i. Commissioner Templeton said we are participating in the FIRST Robotics Championship again with a booth on behalf of Consumers Energy.
 - j. Chair Etienne asked for the dates of the robotics event.
 - k. Commissioner Templeton said it is Wednesday, April 23rd. Department Specialist Debusschere can send out an email with more details.
 - l. Executive Director Engelman asked to have Commissioner Lambert-Bounds involved since her expertise helped us with our social media efforts last year.
8. Report of Committee on Women Veterans
- a. Chair Etienne advised that Commissioner Haley had a job change and is not able to be here today.
 - b. Chair Etienne advised that we started a private Facebook group last year called the Michigan Women Veterans Forum that now has 151 members. She said it has been exciting to see a group be established because we have struggled on how to create awareness. She said we are fortunate to have help from Kristina Leonardi from the DMVA to help facilitate the Facebook group. She said Commissioner Wheeler-Derrer connected us with Melissa Werkman from Moxie Wild and she did events over the summer for the women veterans free of charge. Chair Etienne said Commissioner Haley advised the comraderie was great and agreed that we would love to plan some more events for this year.
 - c. Chair Etienne also said that in October, Kristina Leonardi shared that

there's a new campaign called She Is A Veteran, which shares individual stories of female veterans in the state and is based off a program in Oregon. She said this campaign should launch this year.

- d. Chair Etienne said we have been working with Kristina Leonardi for the Women Veterans Recognition Day and the 5k in June. She said it was supposed to be tabled to next year, but Commissioner Saunders said she might be able to get something going for this summer. Commissioner Saunders said she would be happy to help because Governor Whitmer wants to run 12 5K races around the state this year and she thinks this would be a great event that she would be interested in.
 - e. Chair Etienne said we had previously selected June 22 for it and suggested a conference call with Kristina Leonardi and Commissioner Saunders to see if we can secure this date.
 - f. Commissioner Saunders she would be happy to facilitate.
 - g. Commissioner Hendrian asked what we are learning from the veterans group. Chair Etienne said it is limited only to women veterans and the women are connecting and networking.
 - h. Executive Director Engelman said it's also building trust and we may be able to survey them in the future.
 - i. Chair Etienne said Commissioner Haley was pleased with the events and that the veterans were excited and bonding with each other.
9. Report of Committee on Human Trafficking/Sexual Assault
- a. Commissioner Haroutunian said that she hasn't had the opportunity to be here with some job changes.
 - b. Chair Etienne added that Commissioner Haroutunian has been appointed to be a Redford District Judge.
 - c. Commissioner Haroutunian said she knows that Commissioner Knauf has two projects, one being contacting colleges and universities in Michigan to see what their sexual assault reporting policies are. She said out of the 6 colleges she contacted, 5 had policies but some are folded into conduct policies that includes specific wording about sexual assault and reporting procedures. She said the reporting Commissioner Knauf received was better than expected. She said one community college didn't have anything about sexual assault but just a code of conduct.
 - d. Commissioner Haroutunian said that Commissioner Knauf has done a great job getting the stop signs in the restrooms. The statistics show Michigan is a huge problem for trafficking especially the auto show.
 - e. Executive Director Engelman asked to bring the colleges together and maybe do a tour and schedule appointments with some of the colleges to have real conversations and use the booklets, etc. to discuss sexual assault.
 - f. Commissioner Wheeler-Derrer added that she's excited Commissioner Meneely has joined the commission because she is heavily involved in the Kent County Human Trafficking Task Force.
 - g. Executive Director Engelman said we need to talk to the Attorney General's office and if there's a help number people can call, we should add it to the women's commission website.
 - i. Department Specialist Debusschere will add this contact information.
 - ii. Ron Robinson added Kelly Carter (AG) is spearheading this.

10.Old Business

- a. None

11.Approval of minutes of October 23, 2018 meeting

- a. Motion to approve the minutes, passed.

12.New Business

- a. Commissioner Hendrian wanted to share that the millennial advisory committee met for the first time today. She said they got organized and set the parameters and shared expectations of the committee.
- b. Commissioner Hendrian also said we had a lot of conversation about our team initiative. She said everyone has a passion for women's health. She said they discussed how to empower young women in health care and how to allow better experience for young women in the health care system. She said they also spent time talking about the other commission initiatives.
- c. The members of the Millennial Advisory Committee introduced themselves and their backgrounds.
- d. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds commended the committee that selected these fine women. She said the ladies are super impressive and thanked them for being here and being a part of the committee.
- e. Vice Chair Vogelsang said she applauds the millennial advisory committee for tackling the health care issue.
- f. Chair Etienne said we are very excited to have them here.
- g. Vice Chair Vogelsang wanted to acknowledge another new women leader at Grand Valley State University who was just appointed its first woman president - Philomena Mantella.
- h. Chair Etienne passed around SAC's annual report on volunteering benefits.

13.Commissioner Reports

- a. Commissioner Lambert-Bounds said she attended Judge Haroutunian's swearing in and that it was wonderful to hear the stories and the background with someone I have been serving with on the commission. She said all the other judges had glowing things to say about Judge Haroutunian.
- b. Commissioner Haroutunian said it was a great event and that she truly appreciates being on this commission.

14.Ex Officio and Liaison Reports

- a. Destiny Shipman from the Department of Corrections asked if it has been discussed if parolees are able to join the Michigan Women Veterans Forum on Facebook. She also asked if we could get the minutes sent out to the liaisons and advised the commission that her staff is going to the women's shelter to serve food later today. She also said she thinks it's amazing we have built the millennial advisory committee.
 - i. Chair Etienne said she will follow up with Commissioner Haley.
 - ii. Executive Director Engelman added that she was new and Department Specialist Debusschere was new and some things weren't translated over.
 - iii. Chair Etienne said we want to build the connectivity between the liaisons and the commission.
 - iv. Department Specialist Debusschere added she will send on the minutes once they're approved today and invite them to the

working group session.

- v. Executive Director Engelman added we will be updating our department liaisons list and we will be sending agendas, etc. on going forward.
 - b. Tari Muniz from Aging and Adult Services said that a large advisory council was behind the report that Chair Etienne handed out today. She said Aging and Adult Services is part of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). She said she wanted to reach out to the millennial advisory committee to share that they have resources about health equity/health disparities/population health.
 - c. Executive Director Engelman asked if they've looked at women that are retiring and their health. Tari said that's not something they have studied.
 - d. Wendy Larvick from the Michigan Department of Education said when we print our STEM bookmarks, she would be happy to connect the commission with childhood facilities and the Library of Michigan to distribute.
15. Public Comments. Public Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person
- a. N/A
16. Meeting Ended at 2:28 pm.

Signature

Respectfully submitted by Chair Etienne